

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 018806 TOSEC 010236

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-15 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 (ISO) R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER:MAR

APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTONJR.

S/S:O D. MACK

M: E. BOSWELL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 018806 TOSEC 010236

FROM ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, AEMR, AFSP, LE, US, APER

SUBJECT:ACTION MEMORANDUM: MESSAGE OF COMMENDATION FOR
EMBASSY BEIRUT (S/S NO. 7601503)

1. WE HAVE ORDERED A SHARP REDUCTION IN THE STAFF AT
EMBASSY BEIRUT, BRINGING DOWN THE NUMBER OF AMERICANS THERE
FROM ABOUT 79 (ALREADY DOWN FROM 175) TO A MAXIMUM OF 45.
WE INTEND TO GET THEM OUT WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS, BY
COMMERCIAL AIR SERVICE, ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE
SECURITY SITUATION WILL PERMIT IT AND THE NEWLY RE-OPENED
AIRPORT REMAINS OPEN.

2. THE EMBASSY STAFF, INCLUDING MANY OF ITS LEBANESE EM-
PLOYEES, HAS PERFORMED ADMIRABLY UNDER OFTEN DANGEROUS
AND HARROWING CONDITIONS. A MESSAGE FROM YOU COMMENDING
THE EMBASSY WOULD BE TIMELY AND HELPFUL IN BUILDING MORALE,
ESPECIALLY IF IT COULD BE DELIVERED BEFORE THE IMPENDING
DEPARTURE OF PERSONNEL ABOUT TO BE EVACUATED.

3. FOLLOWING FOR YOUR APPROVAL IS A PROPOSED MESSAGE COM-
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PAGE 02 STATE 018806 TOSEC 010236

MENDING THE STAFF OF EMBASSY BEIRUT:

BEGIN TEXT: (UNCLASSIFIED)

TO: BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

EO 11652: N/A

- -

TAGS: PINS, AEMR, AFSP, LE, US, APER

SUBJECT: MESSAGE OF COMMENDATION FOR EMBASSY BEIRUT

CAPTION: FOR CHARGE FROM SECRETARY

I HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING WITH CLOSE ATTENTION THE TRAGIC EVENTS IN LEBANON THROUGHOUT THESE LONG MONTHS. EVEN DURING THE DARKEST MOMENTS, HOWEVER, I HAVE BEEN BUOYED BY THE FACT THAT AMBASSADOR GODLEY AND YOU, ALONG WITH THE DEDICATED MEMBERS OF THE MISSION, AMERICAN AND LEBANESE ALIKE, HAVE BEEN CARRYING OUT YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES WITH DEVOTION AND IMAGINATION, IN KEEPING WITH THE FINEST TRADITIONS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE.

IT HAS BEEN A SOURCE OF INSPIRATION AND PRIDE TO ME PERSONALLY, AND TO YOUR COLLEAGUES IN WASHINGTON AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, THAT ALL OF YOU HAVE REMAINED STEADFAST AND UNSHAKEN IN THE FACE OF PERILS, KNOWN AND UNKNOWN. YOU HAVE HAD TO FIND RESOURCEFUL SOLUTIONS FOR UNEXPECTED PROBLEMS. YOUR TIRELESS EFFORTS TO ASSURE THE SAFETY OF OTHER AMERICAN CITIZENS HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY COMMENDABLE.

YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS ARE WARMLY APPRECIATED. IN SALUTING YOUR SPLENDID SPIRIT AND PROFESSIONALISM, I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I AM CONFIDENT YOU WILL MAINTAIN THE SAME HIGH STANDARDS IN THE PERIOD AHEAD. END TEXT.

4. APPROVE DISAPPROVE

DRAFTED BY: NEA/ARN: MDRAPER

APPROVED : NEA: MR. ATHERTON.

CLEARED BY: M: EBOSWELL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES, DIPLOMATIC MISSION ADMINISTRATION
Control Number: S7601503
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE018806
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MDRAPER:MAR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760027-0721
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760124/aaaaausr.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUN 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <13 OCT 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ACTION MEMORANDUM: MESSAGE OF COMMENDATION FOR EMBASSY BEIRUT (S/S NO. 760103)
TAGS: PINS, AEMR, AFSP, APER, LE, US
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006